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resolving the durations of multimedia objects using said information based on actual multimedia object durations and delayed arrival time of information of multimedia objects to be played.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claim 1 is amended. A marked up copy of the amended claim 1 is provided in the attached APPENDIX. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is provided at pages 8 and 9 of the present specification. Specifically, pages 8 and 9 clearly describe resolving the durations based on the use of delayed arrival durations or times of information of multimedia objects due to network problems. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 3 and 4 are allowed. However, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 2 are also allowable and that the entire application should be passed to issuance.

35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTION

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kim, et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,659,790). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting the claimed invention, the Examiner asserted that

Applicant argues "Kim does not teach or suggest resolving the duration of multimedia objects using said information based on actual multimedia object duration and arrival of information of multimedia objects to be displayed."

In response, Kim's teaching "provides the basic measure for multimedia objects ... provides a reference to inter-relate various multimedia objects" (col. 4, lines 1-67) meets the limitations as broadly claimed in the application."

Applicants have amended claim 1 to better define the claimed invention in accordance with the Examiner's broad interpretation thereof. Applicants submit that the amended claimed feature has already been considered by the Examiner as already argued on page 5 of the December 11, 2001 amendment and thus the amendment to claim 1 does not raise any new issues which need further search and/or consideration. Accordingly, the amendment to claim 1 should now be entered into the record and the entire application passed to issuance.

Specifically, claim 1 is amended to recite, in part,

A method of progressive time stamp resolution in a multimedia presentation comprising the steps of:

...
resolving the durations of multimedia objects using said information based on actual multimedia object durations and delayed arrival time of information of multimedia objects to be played. (emphasis added)

Now, the Examiner is of the opinion that Kim shows the use of resolving the durations based on the actual media object duration and the arrival of information of multimedia objects to be played. First, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner. Second, Applicants are of the opinion that the Examiner is reading the claimed invention over broadly; however, for clarity purposes and to expedite the allowance of the present application, claim 1 is amended to recite "delayed arrival time" of information (which can include information which is different than the initial duration due to any kind of delay such as network/playback delay). This feature is clearly not taught in the Kim reference.

Kim generally "relates to composing and playing multimedia documents with variable play time on a computer system and, more particularly, to composing and playing multimedia episodes in multimedia documents so that they are present correctly in time when the document play time is varied." (column 1, lines 6-12). At column 4, Kim describes composing a "multimedia story" by a user manually selecting among a list of episodes, e.g., video, text and audio (column 4, lines 9-10), each associated with a triplet of lengths (i.e., minimum, maximum and optimum lengths). Once these durations are manually set by the user using a user interactive

screen shown in Fig. 2, the episodes are then scheduled together in a way that defines a story by the user (column 4, line 66 to column 5, line 1).

In the scheduling process, the user manually selects a temporal layout as described in column 5. Specifically,

FIGS. 3A to 3D show examples of four types of temporal constraints. In FIG. 3A, two episodes, A and B, represented by rectangular boxes, are sequentially scheduled so that at the end of episode A, episode B is scheduled to begin. This temporal constraint is termed "meet(A,B)" In FIG. 3B, episodes A and B are scheduled to begin simultaneously. This temporal constraint is termed "cobegin(A,B)" In FIG. 3C, episodes A and B are scheduled to end simultaneously. This temporal constraint is termed "coend(A,B)" In FIG. 3D, episodes A and B are scheduled to both begin and end simultaneously. This temporal constraint is termed "co-occur(A,B)". "

However, these temporal layouts are known in advance, i.e., all of the episodes are present for the user's immediate manipulation. Kim does not teach the transmission of these episodes which is the root cause of the problem solved by the present invention. In fact, once Kim chooses the temporal layouts, the layouts remain static or are fixed in relation to one another. If these objects are then transmitted, any delayed arrival times would not be compensated for and the set (fixed) temporal layouts would then be disrupted. That is, if there is any delay, i.e., "hiccup", during the transmission of the objects the temporal layouts such as, for example, "coend (A,B)", will not be played back properly. In this example, either "A" or "B" may end at a different time. There is no dynamic process for correcting the playback due to network delays.

Therefore, in Kim the actual multimedia object duration and arrival of information of multimedia objects to be played have no relevance to composing a multimedia story by scheduling the episodes. Additionally, Kim does not teach an actual duration of a multimedia object being different from its initial duration due to any kind of delay (e.g., network/playback delay). Kim further does not teach arrival of the information over the network. Accordingly, Kim. does not teach or suggest the present invention as now defined.

In stark contrast, the claimed invention is directed to the transmission of objects and resolving the durations of multimedia objects based, in part, on durations due to delay in arrival time. This delayed arrival time may be any segment of the object, whether it be the beginning, middle, end or anywhere within the object, itself. Based on the teachings of the presently claimed invention, if there is a delayed arrival time, the presently claimed invention can dynamically compensate for any temporal delays to thus maintain the integrity and assigned temporal relationship between the transmitted objects. Thus, if there is any "hiccup" in transmission, the present invention can compensate for such "hiccup" and ensure, dynamically, that the temporal layout of the objects remains the same. This simply is not contemplated in the Kim reference.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Kim, et al. are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 3 and 4 are allowed. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

The "marked-up" version of the amended claim in this Amendment is as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of progressive time stamp resolution in a multimedia presentation comprising the steps of:

supplying a player of a multimedia presentation with information comprising two labels, one for a multimedia object's start time and one for the multimedia object's end time relative to other multimedia object start and stop times, and three durations, a minimum duration, a maximum duration and a preferred duration for each multimedia object prior to starting playback of the multimedia object; and

resolving the durations of multimedia objects using said information based on actual multimedia object durations and delayed arrival time of information of multimedia objects to be played.